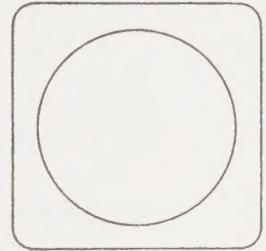


HAROLD F. WISE & ASSOCIATES
Planning Consultants



1771 N STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 / (202) 293-5420

October 30, 1970

W.D. 18

A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR MULTI-COUNTY ORGANIZATION--
SACRAMENTO REGIONAL AREA

Assumptions

The Sacramento Regional Area Planning Commission is a council, *GOVERNMENT LIBRARY*, voluntarily associated, of the county and city governments lying within *SEP 5 1979* the areas of jurisdiction of the counties of Yuba, Sutter, Yolo, and Sacramento, and those portions of the counties of Placer and El Dorado lying *UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA* west of the Sierra Nevada mountain crest.

The purpose of the Planning Commission is to foster the intergovernmental interests of the local general-purpose governments concerned (the cities and the counties) as these member governments, acting through the Commission, may, from time to time, define their intergovernmental interests.

The Sacramento Regional Area Planning Commission is the only general government-based governmental organization operating and planning on an intergovernmental basis within its area of concern.

Intergovernmental interests are defined as those matters of public policy and concern that are shared by more than one unit of local government and, more often, by all units of local general government.

The Commission performs certain functions, as a direct result of Federal law and policy. Thus, in conformance with the opportunities provided by the Federal Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-95 (based on the provisions of Section 204 of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 and the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968), the Commission provides review and comment on applications filed by local governments, as well as State and Federal agencies, within its area of concern, for a variety of Federal grant-in-aid and construction activities. These range from physical facilities to social concerns, including certain functional planning assistance programs.

Review by the Commission is to determine consistency of the proposed Federally-assisted project with the Commission's comprehensive areawide planning.

Federal law and policy require integrated regionwide transportation planning and policy development at the local level as a condition precedent to the granting of Federal funding. Similar areawide statutory planning requirements exist for almost 20 other Federal programs (see attached list). One of the key responsibilities of the Regional Planning Commission is to relate all of these planning activities and to insure their consistency with the Commission's locally-developed areawide comprehensive planning.

In this regard, the Area Planning Commission has the opportunity to assert a unified areawide local interest with regard to the rules, regulations,

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024 with funding from
State of California and California State Library

<https://archive.org/details/C124901180>

and guidelines issued by Federal agencies in relation to their Federal grant-in-aid programs and Federal planning assistance programs.

The Regional Area Planning Commission provides a vehicle for the local governments within the six counties to identify the overriding local intergovernmental concern with regard to state action and to assert this concern with regard to State activities being carried out within the area of regional jurisdiction.

Further, the Commission can and should express the interests of the local general governments of the region with regard to the rules, regulations, procedures, and policies of any State agency concerned with intergovernmental relations or project review as called for by Federal Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-95, including the setting of regional boundaries for state administrative or functional planning purposes.

The region's intergovernmental interests are, in the normal course of events, set forth in regional policy statements adopted by the Commission in the form of regional plans and programs (The Regional General Plan). These public policy statements provide guides for the development of the region in terms of physical facilities and patterns of urbanization, on the one hand, to social and economic programs, on the other hand.

The precise content of The Regional General Plan is, in itself, a policy matter to be determined by the Regional Area Planning Commission members.

Regional action proposals, whether based on Commission-developed plans or programs or otherwise, are all the concerns of the Commission, as it seeks to achieve balanced, coordinated, and healthy regional development.

Some Federal and State programs, and particularly planning programs upon which action proposals are based, involve not only the action of public agencies, but the interaction of public policy and private individuals or business interests. Examples lie in the fields of transportation planning and health planning. The public interest side of these programs is very much the concern of the Regional Area Planning Commission.

Principles

1. The Regional Area Planning Commission should be composed exclusively of elected officials of units of local general government (the cities and counties). State and Federal officials, citizens, planning commissioners, and representatives of special interest groups or the business community may be appointed as members of advisory committees, but the public policy side of the region's business must be in the hands of those who are politically responsible, who are elected to govern, and who can balance the needs of local governments with the needs for intergovernmental regional action. This principle does not negate the real need for effective mechanisms, both formal and informal, for minority representation

and citizen participation in the development of the Commission's regional public policy positions.

2. The Regional Commission should be authorized to assume limited powers and functions with reference to the operation of regional (multi-county) services, as the need for such services is defined by the Commission. In carrying out these limited powers and functions, the Commission should be granted regulatory, taxing, and financial management powers, and, specifically, should act as the "umbrella" organization for all other agencies established for regional purposes, including the power to appoint the members of such agencies. 1/
3. In those cases where the Regional Commission does not assume direct operational responsibility, it should be the public body to determine the organizational structure, the financial arrangements, and the areas of responsibility of all multi-county special-purpose districts or agencies (including those created as the result of State or Federal law or policy). Such determinations should be in accordance with the development policy set forth in the regional general plan adopted by the Regional Area Planning Commission.
4. The ability of the Sacramento Regional Area Planning Commission to strongly put forth and assert the region's interest on matters

1/ Adapted from the policy statement adopted June 26, 1970, by a Task Force of Board Members of the League of California Cities and the County Supervisors Association of California.

of intergovernmental concern relates directly to the existence of strong local governments, both cities and counties, who should be able to carry out their assigned responsibilities in an unequivocal fashion. Local general-purpose governments must be fiscally sound and have the ability to easily adjust their boundaries of jurisdiction in order to fit the urban and urbanizing populations that have need for municipal-type services.

5. The Sacramento Regional Area Planning Commission has as one of its principal concerns the planning for and effective delivery of public services to the people of the region. To the greatest extent possible, such services should be made available through the cities and counties of the region. In keeping with this principle, the Commission recognizes the following:

a. As a strong principle of local government organization, there should be no question but that urban areas and rapidly urbanizing areas should be located within municipal jurisdictions in order that the wide variety of necessary municipal services is available to all residents within the region.

b. Special-purpose and single-purpose districts have been formed rather easily in the past to perform single-purpose functions, when a unit of general-purpose local government was not available to perform the service.

The further formation of special-purpose districts should be avoided to the greatest extent possible.

c. In cooperation with County Local Agency Formation Commissions, the Regional Area Planning Commission should initiate studies to recommend and to accomplish the merger, consolidation, or the elimination of special-purpose districts, transferring their functions to local general-purpose governments whenever possible, or creating multi-county or county-wide special-purpose operating organizations subject to the financial and policy control of the regional agency.

6. The Regional Area Planning Commission should, as it further defines its mission, consider changing its name to fit the role it will be playing in regional affairs. The term "planning commission" connotes the classical zoning operations of local city or county planning commissions. The term "Sacramento Regional Area Council of Governments" might be more appropriate to a new role.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS WITH AREAWISE
STATUTORY PLANNING REQUIREMENTS 1/

1. Natural Resources, Conservation, and Development

Open Space (HUD) (42 USC 1500a)

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention (USDA) (16 USC 1001)

Resource Conservation and Development (USDA) (7 USC 1010)

2. Transportation

Airport Development (DIT) (49 USC 1101)

Highway Planning and Construction (DOT) (23 USC 1010 (134))

Urban Mass Transportation Capital Assistance (DOT) (49 USC 1601)

Urban Mass Transportation Technical Studies (DOT) (49 USC 1607)

Public Facility Loans (HUD) (42 USC 1491)

3. Utility Systems and Services

Basic Water and Sewer Facilities (HUD) (42 USC 3101)

Water and Waste Disposal System for Rural Communities (USDA)

(7 USC 1962 (a)(2))

Economic Development Grants and Loans for Public Works and
Development Facilities (COMM) (42 USC 3131, 3141)

Water Pollution Control--Waste Treatment Works Construction
(INT) (33 USC 466 e)

Mortgage Insurance for Land Development and New Communities
(HUD) (12 USC 17490 aa)

New Communities (HUD) (42 USC 3901)

4. Economic Growth and Industrial Support

Economic Development Loans for Business and Development
Companies (COMM) (42 USC 3142)

5. General

Advance Acquisition of Land (HUD) (42 USC 3104)

Public Works Planning Advances (HUD) (40 USC 462)

Model Cities (HUD) (42 USC 3301)

Planned Areawide Development (HUD) (42 USC 3335)

1/ Adapted from report of the Federal Interdepartmental Planning Requirements Task Group, Washington, D. C., Dec., 1959



124901180